

NEWS GENERAL

PROBE

Pilots blame bosses for KQ financial woes

Doubted management's ability to turn around airline

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Kenya Airways pilots have accused the management of the national carrier of systemic blunders and hazardous decisions and questioned its ability to turn around the troubled airline.

The pilots, under the Kenya Airline Pilots Association (Kapa), accused the board and management of leasing its fleet at exorbitant prices.

They said the two have also turned a deaf ear on staff and customer grievances as they hire expensive expatriates to turn around the airline's dwindling fortunes.

The revelations emerged during a meeting of Kapa officials and the Senate's Trade, Industrialization and Tourism Committee probing the operations at KQ.

The probe follows a petition by Nandi Senator Samson Cherarigel to inquire into KQ's operations in the wake of sustained huge losses posted by the national carrier.

Making a presentation before the panel chaired by Kajiado Senator Kanar Seki, Kapa executive member Mwenda Mabura claimed that KQ is hiring planes at almost twice the market rate.

"Other lines lease a standard dreamliner at between \$425,000 and \$600,000 but here, we are leasing at a million dollars," Mabura said. "Leases are not properly regulated."

We cannot have years and years of leasing an aircraft. When they reach a certain stage, they should be converted into cargo planes."

He said the management has developed a tendency of hiring old planes, some as old as 10 or 15 years but are paying the amount in leasing them despite depreciation.

Mabura also accused the management of opting to lease from three different companies, a move that has proved costly to the airline.

According to Kapa, KQ management should reorganise its fleet to one manufacturer, preferably Boeing or General Electronics which have been in practice for many years.

"This will reduce lease rates, cost of spares, transitional and training costs and time and certification nightmares across various platforms," he said.

Currently, KQ fleet consists of a mix of owned and leased planes, including wide-body jets like the Boeing 787, narrow-body jets such as the Boeing 737, Embraer regional jets, Bombardier Dash 8-400 jets, and Boeing 737 freighters.

Mabura said the management has proved incompetent and insensitive to the airline, staff and customers.

"Going by the delays, disruption of flights and direct lack of goodwill, I can say the board is incompetent," Mabura said. He was responding to a question by Uasin Gishu Senator Jackson Mandago who had sought his opinion on the competency of the management.

THE PILOTS, UNDER THE KENYA AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, ACCUSED THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF LEASING ITS FLEET AT EXORBITANT PRICES

Why impeaching CECs won't be a walk in the park for MCAs

PROPOSED LAW

JULIUS OTIENO/Impeaching county executive committee members will no longer be a walk in the park for MCAs if a new Bill currently before the Senate is enacted.

The County Governments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 seeks to tighten the ouster threshold to safeguard the CECs from the wrath of the ward reps.

"This Bill proposes to enhance the threshold of voting in a county assembly for the removal of a member of a county executive committee," the Bill states.

In the proposed law sponsored by Nandi Senator Samson Cherarigel, at least two-thirds of members of a county assembly will be required to vote in favour of an impeachment motion to remove a CEC.

"Cognizant that the office of county executive committee member is established by the Constitution and noting the adverse consequences of removal by impeachment of

a member of a county executive committee, the threshold for voting for such a removal in the Act are low," the Bill states.

The Bill has been introduced in the Senate for the first reading. Currently, a CEC can be removed by a simple majority, at least more than half of the members of the county assembly.

Cherarigel argues in the Bill that the threshold is too low especially given the consequences of impeachment.

CECs, who are equivalents of CSS in the national government, head various dockets in the county executive charged with discharging of devolved functions as set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution. Several CECs have suffered impeachment by MCAs. However, the ward reps have been accused of executing the removal motions on flimsy grounds, sometimes political, owing to low threshold.



PHOTO STORY
A man holds a portrait of his relative who perished in the Londiani accident during a memorial service to support the families of the 52 victims and survivors of the tragedy



Kericho Governor Eric Mutai, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula during the memorial service /DPPS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KWALE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD VACANCY



The County Public Service Board wishes to recruit competent and qualified persons to fill in the following position for the department Water Services.

CHIEF CHEMIST JOB GROUP - M VACANCY NO. 59/2023/KCPSB

- Duties and Responsibilities**
- I. Generating and interpreting scientific data.
 - II. Preparing reports of analysis.
 - III. Presenting reports of analysis and providing expert evidence in court.
 - IV. Carrying out research on techniques and methods used in quantitative and qualitative analysis of water and wastewater, foods, drugs and chemicals substances.
 - V. Carrying out maintenance and calibration of scientific equipment.

Requirements for Appointment

For appointment to this grade, an officer must have:-

- (i) Served in the grade, of Senior Chemist for a minimum period of three (3) years;
- (ii) Bachelor of Science degree in any of the following disciplines:- Chemistry, Food Science and Technology, Biochemistry or Environmental Science from a recognized institution;
- (iii) Certificate in computer application – skills from a recognized institution; and,
- (iv) Shown ability and demonstrated merit as reflected in work performance and results.

Note:-

1. All applications should be submitted on or before **18th July 2023 by 4:30pm** in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the left side the **category [position]** which they fall and addressed to:-

**The Board Secretary
Kwale County Public Service Board
P.O BOX 4-80403
KWALE**

Posted or hand delivered at the Kwale County Public Service Board Offices next to Kwale District Hospital and opposite Baraza Park – Kwale Town.

2. Applicants must attach copies the following documents:-
 - National Identity Card
 - Academic and professional certificates
 - Leaving certificates and other testimonials
3. All applicants submitting their applications through hand delivery should be on face masks and adhere to health protocols like keeping social distance and washing their hands.
4. Women and People with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.
5. Please visit our official website www.kwalecounty.gov.com for details on job requirements.